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STAR OF MYSORE

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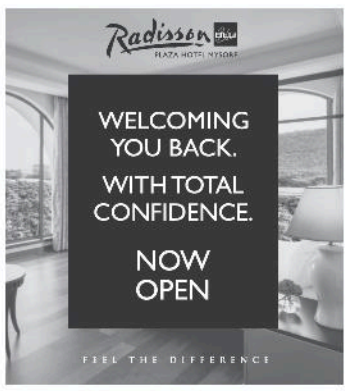


Rise in COVID-19 cases

MCC orders closure of major City Markets

Devaraja Market, Santhepet, Shivarampet, Mannars Market and Boti Bazar to remain shut for 4 days from June 25

Mysuru, June 24 (RK&DM)- With the city reporting new COVID-19 positive cases almost every other day for the past few days, causing a huge concern for the citizens and ringing alarm bells for the State Government, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), in a strategic move to contain the spread of the deadly pandemic, has ordered closure of major Markets in the Central Business District for four days starting tomorrow (June 25).

In an order issued this afternoon, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde said that five Markets in the heart of the city ---- Devaraja Market, Santhepet, Shivarampet, Mannars Market and Boti Bazar ---- where a large number of people visit for buying and other business purposes, have been ordered to shut down for four days from June 25.

The order said that it is a measure to check the spread of the deadly COVID. During the 4-day closure, the MCC will wholly clean, sanitise, fumigate and disinfect these market places.

The order also has certain specific instructions to the shop-keepers on the precautionary and safety measures to be taken once the Markets re-open after four days.

Accordingly, the shop-keepers are required to draw box markings in their business spots to ensure physical distancing by customers and conduct mandatory thermal screening of all customers. Those customers found to be suffering from fever, cough, cold or other Coronavirus symptoms, must be immediately reported to the MCC Health Officer. Also, it must be ensured that all customers visiting shops wear face masks and shop-keepers are required to compulsorily keep hand sanitisers at business spots for use by customers and to regularly maintain cleanliness and hygiene in and around their shops.

Further, the order warned that shops and other business establishments which do not follow these instructions will be shut down.

SSLC exams from tomorrow

- 139 exam centres readied in district including 48 in city
- Students must be present one hour before start of exam
- Avila Convent exam centre shifted to Maharani's Junior College
- DC Abhiram Sankar asks students, parents not to panic

DDPI Panduranga inspecting Maharani's Junior College this morning.

Mysuru/Bengaluru, June 24 (MTY & KS)- As many as 39,822 students would be taking up SSLC exams at 139 exam centres in the district including 48 centres in city and the Department of Public Instructions has issued guidelines to be followed by students who will be writing their exams from June 25.

Out of the total 39,822 students in Mysuru district, 851 students will be taking their exams in other districts while 338 students from other districts will be writing their exams in Mysuru district.

(See SSLC EXAMS on page 6)

Central Investigation agencies

on high alert after use of Satellite Phones discovered in MM Hills Range

Bengaluru, June 24 (Siddalinga Swamy)- Following reports that some anti-national elements have used Satellite Phones in Gopinatham forests along Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, coming under Male Mahadeshwara (MM) Hills Range, to capture images of strategic locations, investigation agencies such as Internal Security Force, Anti-Naxal Force (ANF) and intelligence wings of both the Central and State Governments have been put on high alert in the region.

The agencies have also begun investigation into who would have used the Satellite-based Phones, which is banned in the country. The agencies are probing in various angles including the possible involvement of Naxalites, terror organisations or anti-social elements.

Chamarajanagar SP H.D. Anandkumar told this reporter that he has come to know of the use of the banned Satellite Phones in Gopinatham forests coming under MM Hills Range. Stating that although it is true that Satellite Phones have been used in the forest, he said that right now it cannot be said whether the phones have been used by Naxalites. Only the probe which has begun can reveal the organisation or group which may have clandestinely used the Satellite Phone in the forest range, he said.

Noting that there may also be a possibility that foreign tourists, who visited the forest may have used it, he pointed out that many foreign countries have permitted its citizens to use Satellite Phones. The probe agencies are looking at this angle too as foreign tourists may have used the phone here also out of practise. However, the completion of the ongoing probe will throw light on the nature and purpose of using the Satellite Phone in the forest range, he added.

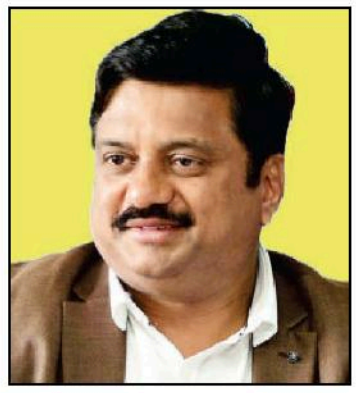
Senior IAS Officer

B.M. Vijayshankar ends life

Bengaluru, June 24- Senior IAS Officer and former Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban District, B. M. Vijayshankar, who was an accused in the IMA (I Monetary Advisory) Jewels Ponzi scheme scam, allegedly committed suicide by hanging self at his residence in Jayanagar here on Tuesday night. He was 59.

The incident came to light at around 8 pm. Vijayshankar, who stayed with his family in Bengaluru's Jayanagar, is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Vijayshankar was accused of accepting Rs. 1.5 crore as favour from IMA Jewels Founder Mansoor Khan for allegedly issuing a financial clearance to the company, when serving as Bengaluru Urban DC. After the IMA Ponzi Scheme scam broke out early last year, the SIT, which was formed by the State Government to probe the case, arrested him and subsequently he was suspended from service. After spending a few days in Jail, he was released on bail.



B. M. Vijayshankar

However, he was recently reinstated and posted as Director of 'Sakaala' Mission, it is learnt.

After initial investigation by the SIT, the Government had handed over the IMA scam to CBI and he was reportedly under severe mental stress after he was booked along with others in the scam. The CBI, which continued probe into the scam, had reportedly issued summons to Vijayshankar to appear before it for questioning on a specified date later this week, it is said.

The jurisdictional Tilaknagar Police have registered a case in this regard.

GTD joins farmers in their protest against amendments to Land Reforms Act

Protestors submit memorandum to MLAs

MLA G.T. Devegowda staging a dharna at Jaladarshini Guest House on Hunsur Road this morning.

Mysuru, June 24 (PM&KS)- Opposing the amendments to Land Reforms Act, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene and Karnataka Rajya Raitha Virodhi Kayde Horata Samithi, staged separate protests at Jaladarshini Guest House on Hunsur Road this morning. While the members of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene were led by their President Badagalapura Nagendra, the members of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Virodhi Kayde Horata Samithi were led by Kurubur Shanthakumar, Convenor of the Samithi.

The protestors said that if the amended Land Reforms Act is implemented, it would create food scarcity and would allow anyone to purchase agricultural land and utilise the land for any purpose. He feared that industries would also come up on rich fertile agricultural land, thus decreasing food grains production.

MLA L. Nagendra, who arrived at the spot, received the memorandum and assured them of submitting the same to the Chief Minister and Revenue Minister.

MLA G.T. Devegowda, who too arrived at the guest house, supported the farmers and joined them in their protest for some time. He later received the memorandum from them and assured of his support.

Farmer leaders Hosakote Basavaraju, Mahadeva Nayaka, P. Marankaiah, Netravathi, Vidyasagar Ramegowda, Sudheer Kumar and others took part.

District Monitoring Committee meeting on June 26

Mysuru, June 24- The postponed First Quarterly (2020-21) progress review meeting of the District Development Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee will take place at Chamundeshwari Auditorium in Regional Commissioner's Office premises here at 10 am on June 26.

MP Pratap Simha will preside over the meeting, according to a press release from the ZP Planning Director.

DCP issues instructions

to all Police Stations on strict measures for checking COVID spread

Dr. Prakash Gowda

Mysuru, June 24 (RK&DM)- With fresh COVID-19 positive cases on the rise in the city almost every other day for the past few days, DCP (Law & Order) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda has issued several fresh instructions to all Police Stations in the city. The DCP has directed the Police Inspectors to ensure that people compulsorily wear face masks when they come out of their houses, use hand sanitisers and maintain physical distancing at all public places and points and to ensure that members of the public comply with all safety guidelines.

Prior permission must for marriage, functions: Pointing out that henceforth, it is mandatory for the public to obtain prior permission from their respective SHOs (Station House Officers) for organising marriage and such other functions, he said that the jurisdictional Police must register a case against the organiser if more than 50 persons are found attending a function.

Also, marriage and other Convention Halls must take prior permission from the Police for letting them out to any function organisers and video-recording is mandatory for all programmes that are allowed to take place. It is the responsibility of the jurisdictional Police to register cases if any lockdown violations are noticed in Function Halls and other public places where people gather, the DCP said.

Youth ends life

Mysuru, June 24 (RK)- A 21-year-old youth ended life by hanging self at his residence on Veene Seshanna Road behind K.R. Police Station here on Sunday. Shravanth (21), son of Sridhar and a second Year PUC private student, is the deceased. Sridhar, who was said to be suffering from depression, hanged himself from the ceiling fan at a room in his house on Veene Seshanna Road (Agrahara) at about 5 pm on Sunday. He was immediately rushed to K.R. Hospital, where he was declared brought dead, it is learnt.

K.R. Police have registered a case in this regard.

ZP meeting on

Standing Committees poll on June 30

Mysuru, June 24- Mysuru Zilla Panchayat (ZP) will conduct a meeting to discuss the elections to various Standing Committees for the third and final term of the present tenure, at the Regional Commissioner's Office here at 11 am on June 30.

ZP President Parimala Shyam will preside over the meeting.

VOICE OF THE READER

More on manholes in the middle of roads & roadsides

Sir,

When a manhole or sidewalks or any public way is repaired and is left to dry/cure, the contractor is obligated to install a barrier all round it with a well lit (after dark) cautionary notice to users to beware. The contractor after the mandatory wait period for dry/cure must remove the cautionary notice and barrier and clean the surrounding area so as not to be the reason for an accident.

From the manhole picture published in this column yesterday it is clear that the job was unprofessional and an accident waiting to happen.

It's time we the people should demand from the authorities value for money and we deserve a clean and problem-free road. After all, it is our right to demand to live in a safe, clean and accident-free city.

I wish to thank Vijay Hemmige, Sanjay Kini, H.M. Ravi, Harish Shenoy and so many others who have highlighted the dangerous and carless disregard by the authorities to do their job. After all, it is contractors who are assigned to do whatever repairs is required.

My only hope is the authorities read *SOM* to know the trials and tribulations the citizens of this beautiful city go through on a daily basis.

— George C. A. Rego
Mysuru
23.6.2020

Blood donation marks birth anniversary of J.K. Tyres Founder-Chairman

Mysuru, June 24- As part of Father's Day celebration and birth anniversary of Hari Shankar Singhania, former Chairman of J.K. Organisation, over 30 employees of J.K. Tyres voluntarily donated blood at Jeevadhara Blood Bank on Sayyaji Rao Road in city.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikram Hebbar, Human Resource Officer, J.K. Tyres, said: "Every year we organise blood donation camp on the occasion of birth anniversary of our Founder-Chaiman Hari Shankar Singhania. This year, due to fear of Corona, there is shortage of blood at Blood Banks and hence, we decided to motivate more people including our family members to donate blood. Our company Founder treated us like his children and today, being Father's Day we thought of paying our tribute this way."

Jeevadhara Blood Bank Director Girish, who too spoke, said that every day, 300 to 400 units of blood is required to different hospitals in Mysuru and now people hesitate to donate blood with the fear of being infected by Corona.

Appreciating J.K. Tyres employees for voluntarily donating blood, like they do every year, even in this tough times, Girish said that individuals and organisations must come forward to donate blood and help save lives.

J.K. Tyres Senior Officer Nagaraj, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Mamatha and others were present.

Installation of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda statue at Intl. Airport in Bengaluru

Chief Minister to perform bhoomi puja on June 27

Bengaluru, June 24- The construction of the 108-feet-tall bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, in front of the international airport here, will be initiated on June 27, said Deputy Chief Minister (Dy.CM) and Vice-President of the Kempegowda Development Authority, Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan.

Speaking after inspecting the 23-acre location where the statue will come up, the Dy.CM said that bhoomi puja will be performed by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on that day, which coincides with Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's 511th Jayanti.

BBMP Commissioner Prakash and Airport Senior Officers were present during the inspection.

In a recent meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister had said that a model of the statue is ready and will be finalised after the approval of the Chief Minister. The work is expected to be completed in a year and the statue is estimated to cost around Rs. 66 crore, he said.

Anil and Ram Sutar, the renowned artist, who built the statue of Gandhiji in Bengaluru, will also build the Kempegowda statue and are expected to sign the contract soon.

Dr. Ashwathnarayan further said, "With spending of Rs. 80 crore on the project, it will be one of the major attractions in the State."

The International Airport Agency has agreed to commence work on the 23-acre site next to the statue, and the area will be developed in a special way. He added that Adec has prepared a comprehensive project report for both the projects.

Eye screening

Mysuru, June 24- Annapoorna Eye Hospital, Hootagalli branch, has organised a eye screening for cataract identification and other vision problems at its premises from June 24 to 27 between 10 am and 7 pm. For details, contact Hospital Manager Vinod Nair (88844-88262), according to a press release.

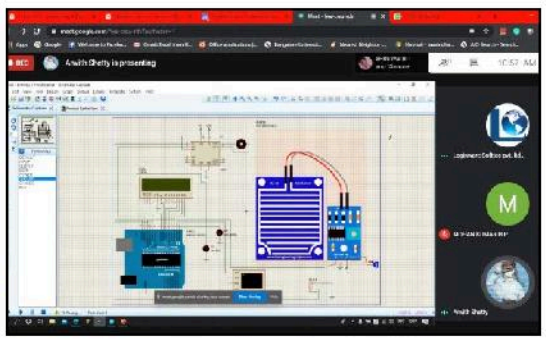
Kempegowda Jayanti in Mysuru on June 27

Mysuru, June 24- The District Administration, in association with Kannada and Culture Department, will celebrate Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti in a simple manner at Kalamandira on Hunsur Road in city at 10.30 am on June 27.

The Jayanti will be celebrated in a symbolic manner by showering petals on the portrait of Kempegowda (the Founder of Bengaluru), according to press release from the Kannada and Culture Department.

Hundreds of students take part in online Hackathon

GSSS INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY FOR WOMEN
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING
Two Days Hackathon
on
"ULTRA HACK using IoT"
19th-20th June, 2020



Mysuru, June 24- The Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, GSSS Institute of Engineering & Technology for Women (GSSS IETW), Mysuru, had organised a two-day online Hackathon on 'Ultra Hack using IoT' for all the Engineering students on June 19 and 20.

Dr. Rajendra R. Patil, Professor and Head, ECE Department, moderated the event.

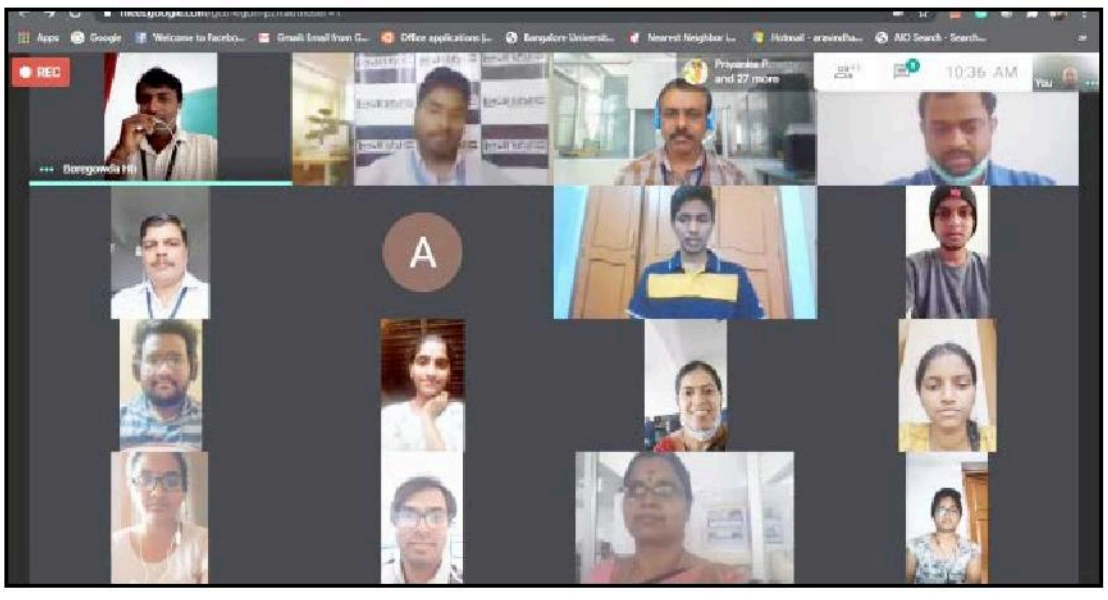
On Day-1, P. Thejesh, Founder and CTO, Loginware Softtec Pvt. Ltd., Hassan, guided the installation of Proteus software and execution steps to the participants. He also explained about the Arduino controllers and its types, applications of IoT, different sensors such as IR sensor, Ultrasonic sensors, range sensors etc., and simulation process of circuits. He has given ideas for real time problems to the participants and motivated them to obtain the solutions for defined problems.

On Day-2, the online competition was held to get the best solution for problems assigned on previous day through circuit design, coding debugging using Proteus software. Later, the speaker discussed about women safety, solution for border and environmental issues.

The two-day Hackathon was attended by 67 teams from different States like Telangana and Tamil Nadu including Karnataka.

The first place was awarded to M. Srinivasan of Dayananda Sagar Academy of Technology & Management, Bengaluru, for the idea 'COVID 19 Contact tracer and Social distancing device' and second place was awarded to Alikapathi, Keerthipriya and N. Gaganashree of AMC Engineering College, Bengaluru, for the idea "Smart Security Solution and support for people staying alone."

The hackathon provided a platform for the participants to design circuits and find the solutions for research challenges of real time problems.



In this week's Pet Talk,
Maneka speaks about taking care of birds with special mention on the precautions to be taken for Budgerigars

Pet Talk

Maneka Gandhi

What are some precautions that should be necessarily taken for Budgerigars?

• Don't allow perches and gravel sheets to become heavily soiled with dropping. Your bird will be healthier in a regularly cleaned home. Change gravel sheets and wash the base of the cage every 2 or 3 days. Clean the cage and its contents, including toys, regularly with a suitable disinfectant solution that is thoroughly rinsed afterwards. Don't locate food, grit or water, below perches where they may become contaminated with droppings. Choose a cage where feeders are attached to the cage sides above the floor.

• Don't place the cage in a window which receives direct sunlight, or the bird may suffer heatstroke.

• Don't clutter the cage with too many toys restricting the bird's movement — provide just one or two items at a time and change them occasionally to keep him interested. Never attach toys with string or cotton, use sturdy clips or hooks.

• Don't place the cage too close to TV sets or hi-fi speakers; loud noises will stress the bird.

• Don't give your pet alcohol — booze is strictly NOT for the birds! Neither are tobacco products, candy, chocolate and avocado. Tropical birds do not possess a special digestive enzyme to cope with certain elements in these foods, which may prove toxic in some cases.

• Don't allow any bird to take food from your mouth; some bird diseases can be passed on to you (and vice versa).

Should I cover the cage of my Budgerigars bird?

Birds need fresh air all night. (This is particularly true of the macaw species which are prone to respiratory issues.)

Use single layer, lightweight, breathable fabric. A cotton blend like broadcloth or just bed sheets. Birds sleep as well under light coloured fabric as they do under dark colours. Only cover three sides of the large cages or take extra measures to provide for ventilation when covering all sides (see covering tips below).

• Pull the cage away from the wall at night about 6 inches. This allows for extra air flow.

• Keep the cage cover clean and dust free.

• DO NOT expect your cage to cover to eliminate the sound of conversation or the TV. Birds require a minimum of 8 hours of undisturbed sleep each night. Do not put the TV on the whole night.

• DO NOT cover your bird as punishment or to stop them from screaming. This practice does not correct behaviour problems. It might make life temporarily easier for YOU, but it makes life worse for your bird. Punishment does not work on birds.

• DO NOT leave your bird covered so that you can avoid interacting with him. Your bird's cage cover should ONLY be used during sleeping hours. A cage cover is not a light switch that turns your relationship with your bird off and on at your convenience.

• When making your decision as to whether to cover or not, always take into account that cage covers are made up of fabric which is made up of individual threads. Some birds like to play with fabric and break it down and pull it apart. This leaves fibres that can entwine themselves around body parts. There are also birds who ingest these fibres which can become impacted in their digestive system.

How would I know that my bird is sick?

A healthy Budgie is alert to his surroundings, stays upright most of the time, and is active. If your bird starts acting sick, see a veterinarian. Some signs of a sick bird include: • Deformed, receding, or ulcerated beak; • Difficulty in breathing; • Stains around the eyes or nostrils; • Change in appearance or texture of stools; • Weight loss or loss of appetite; • Swollen eyes or eyelids; • Feather problems including chewing, plucking, or thinning; • Bowed head, lethargy, being overly quiet.

My bird broke a blood feather. How can I relieve it of its pain?

A blood feather is a new feather which needs a large blood supply. So, if it breaks then the bird can lose a lot of blood. A broken blood feather can be an emergency for a pet bird. A broken blood feather that remains in a bird's skin essentially acts as an open faucet, allowing blood to pour out of the bird's body. Because birds cannot tolerate much blood loss, broken blood feathers, that are left untreated, can be fatal.

If you are able to identify a broken blood feather, the feather shaft must be removed from the bird's skin to stop the bleeding. To remove the broken blood feather, the first thing to do is to wrap the bird in a towel. This will not only allow you to restrain your pet safely as you work to remove the feather, it will also reduce the amount of stress to your bird as a result of the procedure.

Once your bird is restrained, locate the broken blood feather. Using tweezers, grasp the blood feather firmly at the base of the shaft, close to the bird's skin. Working as quickly as possible, pull on the base of the feather until the shaft is freed from the feather follicle.

After you have plucked the blood feather, place a pinch of corn-starch on the affected area to help aid clotting, and use a piece of sterile gauze to apply pressure to the feather follicle until the bleeding has stopped. A new blood feather should start to grow to replace the one that had to be pulled. It's a good idea to schedule a visit with an avian vet as soon as possible after removing a broken blood feather, just to make sure that there are no complications and your bird is recovering successfully.

What is the difference between a budgerigar and a love bird?

Lovebirds are tubby-looking birds, with short tails. While lovebirds are available in a number of colour combinations the most common example is the peach-faced lovebird. This green lovebird, with a red or orange face, may also be found in a yellow colour. Lovebirds most commonly make just one sound — a raucous and ear-piercing screech. Lovebirds can be surprisingly aggressive towards other creatures. For example, aviary-owners soon learn not to keep lovebirds with smaller, or more docile, species such as budgies or finches.

Budgerigars are slighter, with a noticeably longer tail. They're also available in a far wider range of different colours, from blues and greens to yellows and whites. Budgies have two core sounds which they produce. The first is a gentle rolling "babble" which they make while communicating with you or one another. It is a soothing and pleasant chirp. They can produce a harsher call when scared or surprised. Budgies tend to positively thrive on relationships with other bird species.

What food do budgerigars eat?

Budgies are vulnerable to obesity, iodine deficiencies, and other nutrition-related problems. A well-balanced and varied diet must always be maintained for these birds to stay healthy. Because seeds are nutritionally incomplete, lacking vitamins, minerals, and protein, they should only be a very small part of a budgie's diet and should never be the entire diet. If you gradually offer your bird fewer seeds, replacing them with healthier options, such as fortified pellets and a limited amount of fresh table food, your bird will eventually start eating more of other properly balanced diets.

Fruits, vegetables, and greens should account for no more than 20 - 25% of the daily diet. Pale vegetables, with a high water composition (example: Iceberg or head lettuce and celery) offer very little nutritional value.

To join the animal welfare movement contact
gandhim@*nic.in*
www.peopleforanimalsindia.org

PFA HELPLINE
Savitha Nagabhushan - 9845654429
DOGS, PUPPIES, CATS, KITTENS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION [Contact: Ph: 0821-2598213]
Timings: 8 am to 8 pm

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS
Readers with queries about their pets health, care and behavioural issues may send their questions to *SOM* : *voice@starofmysore.com*

Grocery kits distributed to 600 newspaper distributors

Hiriya Patrika Vitarakara Kshemabhivruddi Sangha distributed grocery kits to 600 newspaper distributors at Sahakara Bhavan in city this morning. District Co-operative Union President H.V. Rajeev, MDJA President C.K. Mahendra, Sangha President Homadeva, Secretary M. Nagaraju, office-bearers Shivanna, Chinnaraju and others were present. District Minister S.T. Somashekar had symbolically launched this distribution programme at Kalamandira in city recently.

Now pay water tax at comfort of your homes

MCC launches vehicles with Digitalised Point of Sale equipment

Mysuru, June 24 (RK&BNR)- The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and its water supply wing Vani Vilas Water Works (VVWW) today launched its project to supply door-to-door drinking water and also to collect pending water tax through Digitalised Point of Sale equipment.

Eight dedicated vehicles, two for water tax collection and six for water supply, modified for this purpose, were inaugurated by Mayor Tasneem by cutting the tape at the VVWW premises this morning. Also, an auditorium at the VVWW premises, which was renovated at a cost of Rs. 26 lakh, was inaugurated on the occasion. MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, VVWW Executive Engineer P. Nagaraja Murthy, Corporators M.U. Subbaiah, Pailwan Srinivas and B.V. Manjunath, SBI MCC Branch Manager Lin Ramachandra and others were present.

To avoid gathering of public at service centres to pay water tax and to mop up revenues in COVID times, the MCC has purchased the two vehicles exclusively to collect pending water tax dues that stands at a whopping Rs. 180 crore.

Named Cauvery and Kabini, these vehicles are equipped with Point of Sale machines so that water tax can be collected and receipts issued on the spot. People can use debit/ credit cards or cash to pay the tax at the comfort of their homes. The facility is provided by SBI MCC Branch.

Each vehicle can carry eight persons from the VVWW and if the dues are pending since a long time, such connections will be disconnected. A defaulter list has been prepared and armed with the list, the vehicles will land at doorsteps of citizens to collect dues.

There are over 1,70,000 legal water connections in Mysuru city and about 15,000 illegal connections. Of the Rs. 180 crore pending water tax money, Rs. 46 crore is the interest on the dues and Rs. 40 crore is pending water tax dues from many Government institutions.

Door-to-door drinking water supply

A few areas in city face perennial drinking water problem and there is neither a scope of establishing RO (Reverse Osmosis) plants nor supplying water daily as the roads are very narrow. Areas like Udayagiri, Shanthinagar, Kalyanagiri, Rajivnagar, Lingambudhipalya, Nachanahallipalya and surroundings of J.P. Nagar face perpetual drinking water problem.

Though the MCC supplies water to certain areas, the huge water supply vehicles could not reach the tail-end consumers due to bad and narrow lanes. Also, there are no designated places for the MCC to set up RO plants like they have established in other areas despite huge demand.

To ease the problem, the MCC has customised six Tata Ace Mega vehicles and have mounted mini RO plants on them. Each vehicle can carry 1,000 litres of pure drinking water to any nook and corner of Mysuru city and even criss-cross in the narrow lanes and bylanes. Door-to-door drinking water delivery is achieved through these vehicles and people can fill water to their containers at homes.

Mayor Tasneem and MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde launching the Digitalised Point of Sale equipment, which will be attached with the MCC vehicles named Cauvery and Kabini, to collect water tax at the consumers' doorstep, at a programme held at VVWW premises this morning.

ASI's son among two killed in separate road accidents

Mysuru, June 24 (RK, YDS &KS)- Two persons including the son of District Armed Reserve (DAR) Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) were killed when the bikes collided in separate road accidents in city.

In the first incident, Krishna (38), a resident of Kempaiahnahundi was killed on the spot and another person injured when another bike rammed into his bike from behind near Duddagere on Mysuru-T. Narasipur Road on Tuesday night. No case has been registered in this regard.

In the second incident, Puneet Raj (28), son of DAR ASI Nagaraj and a resident of Jalapuri Police Quarters, was killed when another bike collided head-on with his bike on New Kantharaj Urs Road near K.G. Koppal on Monday.

On Monday at about 6.45 pm, Puneet was proceeding on his Bajaj Pulsar bike towards Apollo Hospital side from the Railway Under Bridge, when another bike ridden by one Abhishek, collided head-on with Puneet's bike resulting in Puneet sustaining serious head injuries.

Puneet was rushed to the nearby private hospital where he was provided first-aid and was being shifted to K.R. Hospital for further treatment when he breathed his last on the way to the hospital, according to K.R. Traffic Inspector Vinay, who has registered a case.

Abhishek, who too was injured in the accident, has been admitted to a private hospital in city.

Two-wheeler lifter arrested; Six bikes recovered

Mysuru, June 24 (KS)- Saraswathipuram Police have arrested a person on charges of lifting two-wheelers and recovered six bikes from him.

The arrested is 20-year-old Chandan alias Chandu, a resident of Bogadi. During interrogation, the accused is said to have confessed of stealing one bike each at T.K. Layout and two bikes each near Bogadi Ring Road and Bogadi.

Saraswathipuram Sub-Inspector Vijaykumar supervised Sub-Inspector Bhavya, Crime Division Assistant Sub-Inspector Karunakar and staff Basavaraje Urs in the nabbing and recovery operation.

Urging to consider them as Pourakarmikas...

MCC's UGD workers to stage protest tomorrow

Mysuru, June 24 (PM&KS)- Urging to recognise them as Pourakarmikas with similar facilities being given to them, to stop the contract system and make them permanent, all the 231 Underground Drainage (UGD) workers of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) will stop work tomorrow and stage protest tomorrow in city.

Addressing a press meet at Patrakarthara Bhavan here yesterday, former Mayor Narayan, who is also the President of Karnataka State City Corporation, Municipal Council and Town Council Pourakarmika Mahasangha said that a symbolic protest would be staged by the MCC Permanent and Contract Employees Association and UGD Workers Association at 11 am in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, urging the authorities to fulfil their demands within 15 days, failing which all UGD workers, permanent and contract Pourakarmikas would stop their work and stage an indefinite stir.

Stating that UGD workers were considered as Pourakarmikas earlier, but the Government about five years ago classified them as 'UGD Helpers,' he said that there were 560 permanent and 1,800 contract Pourakarmikas in the MCC who are being given all facilities by the Government, but the UGD workers are denied of such facilities as they are not considered as Pourakarmikas.

MCC UGD Workers Association Working President Kumaraswamy, who also spoke said "We do the most difficult job. Earlier, we used to get down inside the manhole for cleaning, but stopped following Supreme Court order. But still we are undertaking cleaning of manholes, which is exposing us to many diseases. When we are taking up the difficult work, the Government should consider us as Pourakarmikas, make us permanent employees and provide facilities to us."

Pourakarmika leader N. Mara, MCC Permanent and Contract Employees Association President G. Mahadeva, General Secretary Srinivas, MCC UGD Workers Association President Palani, General Secretary Ganesh and others were present at the press meet.

Goods vehicle transporting PDS rice illegally seized

50 quintal rice recovered

Mysuru, June 24 (SPN&KS)- Nazarbad Police have seized a goods vehicle which was transporting Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) rice illegally yesterday afternoon and have recovered 50 quintal rice from the vehicle.

Nazarbad Inspector Srikanth and staff, who intercepted the goods vehicle (KA-11B-0930) near the Ring Road, took the driver into custody and enquired him during which the Police came to know that the goods vehicle was illegally transporting PDS rice to Mandya.

Food and Civil Supplies Department Joint Director M. Shivanna, speaking to 'SOM' said that the driver is being interrogated to know from where the PDS rice was being transported and the persons behind it. A case has been registered at Nazarbad Police Station.

SSLC exams: DC asks students, parents not to panic

Mysuru, June 24 (MTY& BNR)- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar, during an online press meet through Facebook this morning, said "We have taken steps to conduct SSLC exams without any confusions. Students and parents need not panic."

For the first time, we held something like mock drill by allowing parents to visit exam centres a day prior to the exam.

Stating that out of 39,829 students who are taking up exams in the district, 1,500 students depend on private institution buses and nearly 5,000 students depend on KSRTC route buses, the DC said: "Nearly 1,500 students had requested to provide bus facility to them. Hence, we have taken 56 KSRTC buses on contract and students can use it for free. We have also got information about some students coming to exam centre with their parents, some coming by cycle and some by walk. All necessary arrangements are made to make sure that not even a single student misses the SSLC exams."

Mentioning that Scouts and Guides and other organisations too have already provided masks to students writing SSLC exams, the DC made clear that no company/ organisations will be allowed to distribute masks or sanitisers near the exam centre. However, if anyone is still willing to provide masks and sanitisers, they can give it to any nearby BEO or DDPI Office, he added.

Alternative Exam Centres

Pointing out that as the SSLC exams will go on till July 4, there are chances of exam centres already mentioned coming under containment zone and in that case, we need alternative exam centres to conduct exams, the DC said: "In Mysuru city, alternative exam centres have been identified in 1:1 ratio and in every taluk, two to three alternative centres have been reserved to conduct exams."

He further said that a total of 23 students are coming from containment zone to write SSLC exams and they will be made to write exams in a separate room. "All the exam centres are given one thermal screening equipment for every 200 student. All the 2,700 exam duty staff should come to exam centre at 7.15 am. Students are allowed inside Exam Hall from 7.30 am onwards itself and they are permitted to either revise for exams or even have their breakfast. One the exam bell goes, they have to keep their things outside the exam hall."

Parents can drop and pick their wards from the exam centre but should not come and stand in front of exam centres unnecessarily, he said adding that emergency private vehicles and ambulance too are reserved at every exam centres.

SSLC exams from tomorrow

(Continued from page 1)

According to the Block Education Officers (BEOs), benches were being marked with the hall ticket numbers of students yesterday, so that social distancing could be maintained by them while taking up the exams and added that the rooms would be santitised and locked to be opened only on June 25.

Continuing, they said steps are being taken to distribute two face masks per student as per the instructions from the Education Minister and added that Bharat Scouts and Guides has given 42,000 masks to be distributed among the students.

The BEOs said that hand sanitiser would be kept at the entrance of every room in the exam centres and added that students coming from Containment Zones would be made to take up the exams in a separate room, which has been reserved for the purpose at all exam centres.

Pointing out that students from far places arrive at the exam centres as early as 7.30 am, the BEOs said that the students would be allowed inside the exam centre only after screening them for body temperature.

Only 18 to 20 students can take up the exam in a room, said Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) Panduranga. The Health Department staff and Police personnel would be deployed at every exam centre and if any student takes ill, he/ she would be shifted to the nearby hospital in an ambulance, he added.

Meanwhile, a meeting with all BEOs chaired by DDPI Panduranga pertaining to the exams was held in the city yesterday.

Instructions for students

The Department of Public Instructions has issued the following instructions for the students who are taking up SSLC exams from June 25 to July 4:

- Students should arrive at the exam centre one hour before the commencement of the exam and undergo compulsory screening.
- Students arriving at the centre should wear face mask and in case they forget, mask should be provided when they undergo screening.
- It is compulsory for the students to cover their nose and mouth while sneezing and coughing and should refrain from shaking hands, hugging friends and not touch anything at the exam centre.
- In case a student takes ill during exam, the matter should be immediately brought to the notice of the supervisor and students should maintain social distancing while entering and leaving the exam centre.

Avila Convent removed from list of exam centres

Speaking to *SOM* this morning, DDPI Panduranga said that Avila Convent on Krishna Vilas Road was one among the exam centres in the city and the Road has now been sealed as it comes under containment zone. Hence, instead of Avila Convent, Maharani's Junior College will be used to conduct the exam and students are advised to enter the college through Narayana Shastry Road gate, he added.

Man goes missing from city

Mysuru, June 24 (KS)- A 35-year-old man, who left his house on May 5 at about 8.30 am, saying that he was going for work has since gone missing.

The missing person is Shivaramu, a resident of Sahukarahundi village in the taluk.

Those having any information about the missing person may contact Yelwal Police Station on Ph: 0821-2402222 or Mob: 94808-05031.

K.R. Nagar KSRTC Depot Manager transferred

Mysuru, June 24 (SPN)- KSRTC K.R. Nagar Depot Manager Papa Nayaka, who was in the news recently for issuing an extraordinary order asking all the bus staff (drivers and conductors) of the Depot to compulsorily ensure stipulated revenue collection in everyday operations or else lose attendance, has been transferred to a depot of NEKRTC (North Eastern Karnataka Road Transport Corporation), also a State-owned one.

Papa Nayaka's transfer order, which was issued yesterday, comes just a day after *SOM's* sister concern 'Mysooru Mithra' carried a report on his controversial and extraordinary order, on June 22.

The order cited administrative reasons for his transfer, it is learnt.

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